



The **LYME REGIS** *Experience*

*The ultimate guide to
summertime in Dorset's
most popular resort*

April 2014

Issue 1

*Come to where
the dolphins
play*

Pages 4 & 5

PHOTO BY RICHARD AUSTIN

inside

Richard Austin's
**Photo
File**



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Welcome to

The Lyme Regis Experience

LYME Regis is so much more than just another seaside town - in fact, a real experience.

With its colourful history and idyllic setting, Lyme is a 12-month-a-year resort, busy at weekends throughout the year and thronged by happy holidaymakers during the summer months intent on enjoying a traditional sojourn by the sea, spiced up by regular festivals to enhance the experience.

Lyme is a town which certainly punches above its weight. Our ancient iconic harbour, The Cobb, is instantly recognised around the world and the town also has an international reputation for one of the best places on earth to discover a fossil millions of years old.

With our bustling town centre and quaint side streets, Lyme is well served by a plethora of gift shops, cafés, pubs and restaurants, and there's plenty to do for all age groups - mackerel trips around the bay, a fascinating museum, town and fossil tours, Town Mill and aquarium, cinema and theatre.

Enjoy The Lyme Experience - and come back and visit us again soon!

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The trip you'll remember *forever*

There's lots to look for besides mackerel on a boat trip - particularly the dolphins!

IF THERE is one thing that every visitor to Lyme must do at least once in their life, it is to go mackerel fishing in a boat from The Cobb with captain Harry May and experience the thrill when the gleeful cry goes up - "I've got one!"

There is nothing quite like it; being out in the bay on a sun-warmed day, a gentle breeze in your hair, the smell of the sea, and all aboard looking keenly into the turquoise water for that darting silver flash of a fish as you excitedly pull in the orange mackerel line.

Everyone always remembers the enchantment of their first mackerel trip; for children it is a happy highlight of any visit to Lyme, a safe, joyful, sparkling family experience which is passed on by parents and grandparents to every new generation and is repeated often.

No wonder then that mackerel fishing with Harry is Lyme's No 1 summer attraction. In the 44 years that the charming and cheerful seasalt has been a boatman in his home town, more than 250,000 people have set sail with Harry. He's a Lyme institution.

There are six mackerel boats in Lyme, including Harry's pair, Marie-F and Sunbeam, and on any day from April to October you'll easily find the boatmen down at The Cobb opposite the lifeboat station - just listen for their age-old traditional call of "All aboard for the mackerel trip."

It is, as Harry says, a complete game of chance, and how many mackerel you'll catch is in the luck of the seas, but last year a party of pals set a record when they hired both of his boats and caught 176 mackerel between them on the hour-long trip.



<p>HARRY MAY deep sea & mackerel fishing trips</p> <p>Number one attraction in Lyme Regis</p> <p>Both trips are very suitable for the whole family and provide some good, good family fun!</p> <p>Tel: 07974 753287 Email: harry@harrymay.com Website: www.mackerelfishinglymeregis.com</p>	 <p>Mackerel Fishing Trips</p> <p>One Hour £8 for adults and £6 for children. All tackle included</p>	 <p>Deep Sea Fishing Trips</p> <p>8.30am-11.30am £25 each Rod and bait included and as much tuition as you need</p>
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'It was an exceptional day,' says Harry. 'The whole of the bay was just one huge shoal of mackerel. On the other hand last April the sea was so cold that we didn't catch one fish until May 1st. But most trips come back with a good catch; we always head for where we think the mackerel will be, or where they were on the last trip. We want everyone to enjoy the experience.'

But there's lots to look for besides mackerel on a boat trip – particularly the dolphins!

For some 20 years now a pod of around a dozen bottle-nosed dolphins have been regular summer visitors to Lyme and many times a mackerel trip has been made all the more electrifying as suddenly the pod appears from nowhere, playfully leaping alongside a boat, diving and surfacing by the bow and, as our cover picture shows, on some occasions coming close enough to touch.

'Ah, that was Georges,' says Harry, remembering the hot summer day when the eight-foot dolphin swam alongside the Marie-F, rolled on his back and happily let Harry tickle his tummy.

'He's a loner and he's been seen all over the place. On one occasion he swam in so close to Monmouth Beach that he was surrounded by children playing with him in the shallow water.'

Although it is anyone's guess when and where Georges will surface the next time, a more frequent companion to the mackerel trips is Gully, the children's favourite.

'Gully is a friendly seagull who I've trained to take a mackerel out of my hand as we're sailing,' says Harry. 'The youngsters love him. I hold up a mackerel and he swoops down, takes it in his beak and he's off with his free lunch.'

Of course catching your own lunch or supper is a principal purpose for many on the mackerel trips, not least as there is little better than cooking it over a barbecue of driftwood gathered on Monmouth Beach behind The Cobb. But don't worry if you're squeamish or confused as to how to prepare the fish – Harry will gut or fillet your catch before the boat comes back to shore.

And here's another handy local tip for mackerel catchers – in Cobb Square you'll find Lyme's acclaimed fresh fishmonger, The Wet Fish Shop; an old-style traditional fishmonger where the very freshest fish from the seas of Devon and Dorset are piled high on the ice alongside prawns, crab, lobster and cockles. The owner Simon Bennett (who also supplies the fish served at Mark Hix's award-winning Hix Oyster and Fish House, half-way up Cobb Road, on the right) has a deal with Harry – buy a couple of pints of prawns or one or two of Simon's best-in-the-West Beer crabs and he'll keep your mackerel in his fridge while you play with the family on the beach or enjoy a pint at any of The Cobb's three superb pubs.

But mackerel is not the only fish and for those who fancy a bit more adventure, Harry May and the other boatmen also offer deep sea fishing; three-hour trips out far into the bay where you can watch for porpoises and white beak dolphins as you cast for whiting, dogfish, bream, skate, conger, pollock, gurnard and seabass. All tackle and rods are supplied onboard, although anglers who prefer to take their own can stock up on all that they'll need from The Tackle Box, just a few strides from The Cobb on Marine Parade, behind The Harbour Inn.

Whether it's deep sea fishing, dolphin-watching or a blissful hour spent chasing mackerel around the bay, Harry and the other boatmen at The Cobb will make your visit to Lyme fun, traditional and always remembered. Once tried, forever hooked.

Prices for a one-hour mackerel fishing trip are £9 for adults and £6 for children. Three-hour deep sea fishing costs £25.

For more information see the website www.mackerelfishinglymeregis.com, contact Harry on 07974 753 287 or email harry@harrymay.com



Of course catching your own lunch or supper is a principal purpose for many on the mackerel trips.



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Walk in the steps of the

Legend of Lyme

The true strength of Lyme Regis has always been its women

ALTHOUGH many worthy men like the buccaneering discoverer George Somers, philanthropist Thomas Coram and novelist John Fowles have been 'of the town', throughout history it has been our women who have given us the edge of greatness.

Look at whom the town is best known for – while many visitors would not know Somers and Coram from Laurel and Hardy, everybody knows of Lyme's link with Jane Austen and Mary Anning. Even Fowles's own creation, The French Lieutenant's Woman, is bigger than himself.

And of all the great women of Lyme, none is more extraordinary, nor has done more for Lyme's legend, than Mary Anning, the Fossil Queen.

She was born on May 21st 1799 and this year Lyme celebrates her influence and legacy with a weekend of events entitled Happy Birthday Mary Anning (May 16th–18th).

The weekend is organised by the town's Museum and starts on the evening of the 16th when Lyme scientists and fossil experts Paddy Howe, Chris Andrew and Ben Brooks will host an everything-you-need-to-know-about-fossils night. As it's a birthday, there will be cake too.

On the Saturday the Museum will offer free entry and will present stunning fossil displays. The experts will be on hand again to provide tips of what to look for on the beaches and if you've found a fossil, bring it along as, on this day only, there will be a fossil polishing service, to turn your grubby find into a shining prehistoric jewel.

But it's at 1.30pm at the Museum on the Saturday when the main event begins – with a Mary Anning Walk around town hosted by Natalie Manifold, keeper of the Fossil Queen's secrets.

Besides detailing Mary's pioneering discoveries which revolutionised both science and religion by proving the Creation theory wrong, Natalie tells a gripping life story which could win the Pulitzer Prize for Misfortune – or the tale of a great survivor who brushed with death five times.

For starters, although her parents had 10 children only Mary and her brother Joseph survived infancy – and Mary only just. When she was 15-months-old she and three local women were struck by lightning

while sheltering under a tree in a thunderstorm. The women all died but Mary was revived by been rushed home to a hot bath. The local doctor said it was a miracle.

But times were tough for the Annings. Mary's father's cabinet-making business wasn't up to much, especially after he was badly injured falling down a cliff, and the family was so poor that to escape starvation they sold 'curios' (fossils) for a few farthings to wealthy visitors.

Although this rock scavenging eventually led to the great fossil discoveries for which she became famed, it was not before disaster struck again. When Mary was 11 her father died, aged 44, leaving debts, no savings and a family frantic with fear for their miserable future.

It gets worse.

'She nearly drowned on two occasions,' says Natalie. 'The first time was during the Great Storm of 1824 which tore down The Cobb, and the second when she was out fossiling and hadn't noticed the tide come in. She was caught by the sea, drenched and only just survived.'

Then there was the landslide incident. In 1833 she was on the cliffs with her terrier Tray, who was trained to guard her fossils. One minute the black and white pet was doing his duty and the next, he wasn't.

'The death of my old faithful dog has quite upset me,' Mary wrote afterwards. 'The cliff fell upon him and killed him in a moment before my eyes, close to my feet. It was but a moment between me and the same fate.'

Then there was the runaway cart incident.

'Later that same year she narrowly escaped death once again,' says Natalie. 'This time she was hit by a runaway cart and pinned to a wall in the Butter Market which was in Church Street.'

Although by this time Mary's discoveries of the first ichthyosaur, plesiosaur and pterosaur skeletons had earned her some money and a little security, two years after the cart crushing the unluckiest lady of Lyme lost her entire life savings of £300 (about £20,000 today) when she was conned into a bad investment.

She was forced back to living on hand-outs, making do on a pension awarded by the Government in recognition of her massive contribution to science. At today's values, the 'recognition' was worth £30 a week.

Given this life of enduring constant stress – and let us not forget adding to it the frustrating anguish of her getting little credit for her geological genius because she was 'just a woman' – it is barely surprising that, in her mid-40s, Mary's misery was compounded by breast cancer.

And even then, Natalie reveals on her fascinating storywalks, Mary had a harder time of it when the 'good people' of Lyme ignorantly misinterpreted the effects of her painkiller, laudanum, and gossips put it around town that Mary Anning had become a drunk.

Poor Mary, a woman who would become named by the Royal Society in 2010 as one of Britain's top 10 most important women in the history of science but who never lived to celebrate her greatness.

Mary's grave is in the town churchyard and Natalie's tour will take you to the spot. It may be a kindness to lay birthday flowers there, for a poor woman who became one of Britain's greatest, and the Legend of Lyme.

Natalie Manifold's Mary Anning Tours are held every Saturday through the season, leaving the Museum at 1.30pm. They cost £6 for adults and £3 for children. Book through walks@lymeregismuseum.co.uk.

For information and times of other walks, visit www.literarylyme.co.uk



FOSSIL FEVER

'If you know the right places to look, it is very easy to find fossils on the beach without breaking open rocks or climbing the dangerous cliffs.'

LYME makes no bones about the proud claim that it is the fossil-hunting capital of Britain and it has been ever since 1811, when 12-year-old Mary Anning shook the world by discovering an ichthyosaur skeleton and somewhat inconvenienced the Bible's Creation theory that the world was only a few thousand years old.

There have always been fossils in the cliffs on both sides of the town but the storms, wild tides and landslips of the past few years have now made them easier to find; the bad weather has brought more of the cliffs down onto the beaches, shattering the rocks and revealing old and occasionally bankable bones.

A few years ago a Birmingham couple visiting Lyme were walking their dog across the wide beach to Charmouth when they came across a strange-looking 'stone'. They picked it up, brushed off the sand and were delighted to discover it was the jaw and teeth of an ichthyosaur, a giant 'fish lizard' that hunted in the prehistoric seas at least 90 million years ago.

Although they found just the jaw of the 13ft creature, it was still worth around £2,000.

'If you know the right places to look, it is very easy to find fossils on the beach without breaking open rocks or climbing the dangerous cliffs,' says Lyme fossil expert Paddy Howe of the Lyme Regis Museum.

'I go out looking for fossils every day and not one day in the last year has passed without me finding something of interest and value.

'I found part of a jawline of an ichthyosaur which was worth around £1,500. I didn't have to break open any rocks, it was just lying there. The whole skull of that creature would have been about four foot long, but I've just found the tip of its snout so far'.

His biggest find, a five-figure fossil, was in 2005 on the main, Front Beach during excavations to build new sea defences.

'That was an ichthyosaur measuring 5.6 metres. It was in bedrock underneath the sand and worth about £20,000. But unfortunately it was never mine to keep, I was employed as a consultant on the sea defence works so the fossil belonged to West Dorset District Council, who then gave it to the town museum.

'I'm convinced there are even bigger fossils to be found yet. Somewhere under the beach around Lyme is a huge ichthyosaur waiting to be revealed for the first time since it died there many million years ago.'

If you want to find fossils, the best way is first to find Paddy, who conducts daily fossil walks in the season and knows exactly where to look. He's easily located – either at the museum, by email to walks@lymeregismuseum.co.uk, or pop into his fossil emporium in the cellar below Alice's Teddy Bear Shop in Broad Street.

Of course, not every fossil walk is going to reveal a 'fish lizard', but ammonites (locally known as 'snake stones') and belemnites ('devil's fingers') are not hard to find. To see the joy such discoveries bring, especially to children, go to www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk/discovery



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Bucket & Spade

Lyme's beach is so posh it's French

IT'S true; *la plage de sable* was built here eight years ago when 30,000 tonnes of the highest-grade sand were imported from Caen in Normandy, to the delight of sand-castlers ever since.

And being French, the beach likes to look its best – which is why it is cleaned, swept and raked early every morning throughout the season by the town's dedicated team of plage-groomers. If you get up around six you'll catch them at it, skimming and smoothing the white sand into the pristine state which is generally accepted to be the finest on the Jurassic coast.

Besides being the best beach for miles around, it is also the safest. Although in the early part of the season the sea temperature is too cold for all but the most enthusiastic, when it does warm up the shoreline is generally packed with bathers. Unlike other nearby resorts, where you find the seabed unexpectedly dropping away to plunge you alarmingly over your depth, at Lyme you can paddle in with no fear that the water will suddenly get deep – and this is what has made it popular with toddlers and their parents for generations.

Another advantage of Front Beach is that unlike Seaton or West Bay, the tide here goes out for a long way every day, changing the seascape as it reveals rock pools on and around the large expanse of seaweed-covered limestone rock, known as Lucy's Ledge.

Nobody local can really be bothered to agree on who Lucy was. Some say the ledge was nicknamed after a fishing boat that used to be moored off a jetty nearby, others say it was christened after Lucy Wiscombe, a fisherman's daughter of the 19th century who was famous for finding large edible crabs, 14 inches across, that used to hide in the crevices of the rock.

Whatever its origin, Lucy's Ledge has remained a fascination with children for centuries. Take a net and a bucket, carefully move back the seaweed and in the rock pools you'll find anemones, velvet swimming crabs, hairy crabs, blennies (darting little green fish with staring eyes), tiny hermit crabs, prawns, whelks, limpets and, if you look closely, sometimes a squat lobster.

So, you're on the beach sunning yourself, you've had a dip up to your knees and the children have found 'a sea monster!', what else is there to do? Your kids will say 'The Amusements!' The safe and friendly arcade which has been popular for 50 years and never fails to give parents a break.

Walking on and you come to The Cobb, Lyme's most famous landmark, the harbour wall which has kept boats safe from south westerly storms for centuries. There has been a Cobb here in one form or another since 1313 and many times it has been knocked down by huge waves, but the present Cobb has existed since 1824 and its unique design has resisted every pounding.

Besides crabbing with drop-nets when the tide is high or taking in the spectacular view, there are four main reasons for a stroll on The Cobb.

LYME REGIS AMUSEMENT ARCADE

THE SAFE AND FRIENDLY ARCADE WHICH
HAS BEEN POPULAR FOR 50 YEARS AND
NEVER FAILS TO GIVE PARENTS A BREAK



JUST A FEW STEPS AWAY FROM THE MAIN BEACH

The perfect beach is only yards away

One, when the seas are rough and high, there's the thrill of wave-dodging; running along the bottom wall and timing your run so that you don't get soaked by a wave crashing over the high wall above you. Many times their run badly and get drenched – which is basically part of the fun. A word of caution – when the seas are high, stay off the high wall; you don't get swept into the sea (people have been) and have to be rescued by our brave local RNLI volunteers.

Jane Austen loved The Cobb and although it is not known how much she enjoyed wave-dodging during her visit of 1804, she wrote about pleasantly sauntering here in Persuasion, which brings us to reason number two – visiting the steps where that flippertigibbet Louisa Musgrove fell down and came a cropper whilst flirting with Captain Wentworth.

There has been much debate about where Miss Musgrove fell. When Lord Tennyson first visited Lyme and his friends wanted to show him the beach behind The Cobb where the Monmouth Rebellion began in the 17th century but the poet barked, 'Don't talk to me of the Duke of Monmouth! Show me the exact spot where Louisa Musgrove fell.'

Some say that Miss Musgrove's steps are those set above an alcove just along from the start of The Cobb, at a benched recess known as the Gin Shop. Although we like to sup a bit in here, it's not known for that sort of gin – the Gin Shop is where our forefathers kept the ammunition for the cannons that guarded the town and it was so named after the hoist that used to stand above at the top of the steps. Anyway, this probably isn't where Missy Musgrove fell.

The most likely spot of her tumble, calculated from when bits of The Cobb were built, are the very seaward-leaning steps on the southern arm just after the Cobb forks into two. This is where most of the visitors who know their history like to be photographed having their Miss Musgrove moment.

But the most fun place to imagine where she fell are the famous Granny's Teeth, eleven large hunks of stone set into the wall of The Cobb next to the large bollard painted like a pint of Guinness. Scampering up and down Granny's Teeth is a great Lyme Regis tradition that everyone must try at least once. It looks formidable (it isn't) so it is best to take it slowly at first, guiding children by hand – the trick is to lean into the wall as you climb or descend. After a few attempts you'll easily get the hang of it.

The third reason why so many stroll The Cobb these days is to get 'the French Lieutenant's Woman shot'. Ever since Meryl Streep stood wistfully at the end of the wall in 1980 during the making of the film of local author John Fowles's masterpiece, thousands of visitors have had themselves photographed replicating the Meryl moment with the glorious view of Golden Cap behind them. Again, don't try this at high tide when there's rough seas or you risk getting soaked or washed in.

But – as all children will testify – the best reason for going on The Cobb has to be a visit to The Marine Aquarium.

For more than 50 years the Aquarium has been delighting families who step inside the darkened wonderland to see up close, tanks of fish and sea creatures donated by local fishermen. But more than watching the wrasse, pipefish, sea mice and sea scorpions nose to nose, you can often stroke a lobster, hold a starfish and hand-feed the tame mullet.

The Aquarium is home to the world's only Mullet Whisperer, proprietor Max Gollop, who has trained a school of mullet – usually a shy fish – to come to his call and be fed. For a small fee, Max will show you how to feed the fish yourself. There is no experience quite like fish eating from your hand.



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THE REGENT CINEMA

LYME is blessed to be the smallest town in England with its own cinema and its own theatre. Both buildings are designs of such grandeur that it is a pleasure just to go in, regardless of what's on.

If you do nothing much else in Lyme Regis besides bathe in the sea and dine, go to The Regent and The Marine, if only to be enchanted by these rare, lovely monuments to yesteryear.

THE Regent cinema opened on October 11th 1937 with the double bill of a crime thriller *The Limping Man*, and a comedy *Aren't Men Beasts!*

Manager Donald Hardy promised, 'Our policy will be to serve you courteously and well and to provide a consistently high standard of entertainment.' To this day Mr Hardy's promise has been kept, and The Regent has a record of bringing tiny Lyme the latest blockbusters within an unfathomably-short time of release.

But it is The Regent's interior which is its greatest glory, brilliantly designed to give the cinema-goer a sense of great occasion, typically Thirties and just glorious.

As the Lyme Regis Film Society noted at The Regent's centenary, 'there was never anything garish about The Regent; it looked and felt luxurious – a real asset to a small seaside resort, a picture palace in the true sense of the word.'

To see what's on, visit www.scottcinemas.co.uk

THE MARINE THEATRE

THE Little Theatre By The Sea, as The Marine Theatre is affectionately known, has been the place for a great night out for decades.

Rolling Stone Charlie Watts played here not long ago. Status Quo, Jethro Tull, Paul Young, Midge Ure and Ginger Baker have rocked the place. Geno Washington's show last year will not be forgotten until the cliffs fall down completely.

Michael McIntyre, Jo Brand, Sir David Attenborough, Alan Carr lead the line-up of current TV stars who have recently performed, and before them big acts of their day including Danny La Rue, Julie Felix, The Troggs, The Sweet, Kiki Dee, Paul Daniels and Lindisfarne all chose to put Lyme on their tour schedule. During WW11 Jimmy

Cagney left Hollywood to perform for the GIs who were based here in preparation for the D-Day landings.

Some say stars come because Lyme is so off-Broadway that it's the perfect venue for trying out new material. Others say it's because there's limelight, and then there's Lymelight,

nowhere does the memorable experience of seaside theatre better than our Thirties-styled jewel.

For 100 years The Marine has cast its magic over all who visit; for pantos, nights of jazz in the bar, stomping discos, operatics, revues, dances, dramas and all of the other proofs that there's nothing

like live entertainment. Midge Ure returns to the Marine on June 20th. Go to www.marinetheatre.com for what else is on.

And here's another tip – the summer evening view from the balcony of the Marine's wonderful upstairs bar is fabulous.

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LYME REGIS MUSIC SCENE

BIG MIX



Last year The RPMs rocked it to bits and an appearance by Papa Le Gal and B Sharp guest musicians almost brought the cliffs down. The Big Mix is an utter treat for anyone with ears.

OVER the last seven years Lyme has been building a music scene which has rapidly grown into one of the best in the west for nurturing and showcasing young musicians.

Most of the credit for that must go to the drive of the B Sharp music charity for young people. A core group of volunteer trustees, dedicated young people and music leaders are the forces behind B Sharp, an inspired but underfunded musical training ground based in the The Hub youth centre.

'Music can change lives and B Sharp plays a part in that,' says Ayvin Rogers, B Sharp's chairman.

'Through playing music together, we aim to bring out peoples' skills and confidence. All our workshops mix ages, abilities and backgrounds so they can play off each others' strengths and support each other.'

B Sharp's excellence was recognised in 2012 when it was asked to create music for the London Cultural Olympiad and its 180 young singers were invited to perform at the Maritime Mix 'Coastal Voices' launch ceremony for the Sailing Olympics in Weymouth and Poole Lighthouse.

This summer you can see the best of B Sharp at events around the town, at the Busking Festival and 'Playme' Piano (May 24th) and the Big Mix (5th July).

On May 24th, the Busking Festival sees scores of buskers, pianists, one-man bands and performers play in the streets, on the beach and in bars and cafes. Last year, 60 pianists and 60 buskers performed.

Even better is the B Sharp gig happening on July 5th, known as The Big Mix Festival. Featuring young talent selected through audition, it builds throughout the day to an evening finale showcasing some of the freshest dance sounds around, with headline acts playing on a large stage erected in the Marine Theatre Square by the sea. It is, in a word, superb. With hammocks, deckchairs, pop up café Aroma, and BBQ there is a real festival atmosphere right here on your doorstep.

Last year The RPMs rocked it to bits and an appearance by Papa Le Gal and B Sharp guest musicians almost brought the cliffs down. The Big Mix is an utter treat for anyone with ears.

Details are on www.bsharpuk.com



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The Town Mill

LYME REGIS

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*The fabulous find that
many visitors miss.*

WELCOME to The Town Mill, Lyme's hidden heaven – the fabulous find that many visitors miss although, as the seagull flies, it is only 50 metres from the seafront.

Locally known as the Artisan Quarter, the Food Quarter and Old Lyme and it is astonishing that so many visitors don't know this hotbed of grooviness exists. But it does and here is the best way to discover it. Go to the bottom of Broad Street to the traffic lights, and turn left up Coombe Street.

Walk on a few yards and on your left is the excellent Tierra Kitchen, www.tierrakitchen.co.uk, recently hailed as one of Britain's best vegetarian restaurants, a recommended treat.

On a bit more and next to the popular Town Mill Bakery, www.townmillbakery.com, you'll find Richard Austin Images, www.richardaustinimages.com, the shop of prints, cards and books by this magazine's own award-winning photographer. A look in the window, let alone inside, will probably make you want to throw away your Nikon, but press on. You'll pass Fuego, www.fuegoshop.co.uk, on your left, selling jewellery and gifts from South America, and, opposite, Nicola Kathrens' shop and studio where the celebrated designer makes rare knitwear which almost every woman says are 'to die for', www.kathrens.co.uk.

Take the next left, down the side of The Ship Inn (one of Lyme's true 'locals' pubs) and the wonder of The Town Mill is revealed before you.

On your right is The Millside Restaurant, one of the most picturesque places to dine in Lyme, www.themillside.co.uk, ever-so friendly and where all the food is either caught or reared locally or, like its pasta, bread, cakes and icecream, hand made on the premises.

A few more steps on will take you round the corner to The Mill Café & Supper Club, www.millcafeandsupperclub.co.uk, quite simply Italian home cooking at its best. Although so tucked away that even many locals don't know of it, once discovered this cosy, intimate space will become a favourite for those who like to dine informally and without fuss. Besides lunch and supper, it is open for cream teas too and highly recommended are the scones and muffins which Stefano makes with The Town Mill's own flour.

The mill dates back to 1280 and no trip should miss seeing it in action, a marvellous ancient structure, three-floors high, where water-powered half-ton millstones grind corn at 80 rpm. Tours of the mill are held from 11.00am–4.00pm at weekends, and weekdays during school holidays. At the end of the tour you can buy bags of the organic wholemeal flour to take home and bake your own taste of Lyme. See the website www.townmill.org.uk.





The Town Mill has two art galleries, The Courtyard and The Malthouse, open 10.00am–5.00pm every day. They have become Lyme's premier exhibition space for local and regional artists. The Town Mill Arts Guild boasts more than 100 artists and there is always a show in at least one of the galleries, where great works are just asking to be snapped up. A luminary of the Mill art scene is its artist-in-residence Carolyn King, whose studio can be found upstairs in the Old Mill House, well worth a look-in. Ask for a copy of her illustrated children's book 'The Fish Lizard Of Lyme', it is excellent. For details of what's on at the Mill galleries check on the website www.townmillartsguild.com

It's a poor mill that does not boast a milliner and ladies who love hats will relish a good try on at the little shop next to the cheesemonger where Alison Tutcher creates eye-catching treats from all sorts of recycled and vintage fabrics, www.theoldstuffmadenewwhatfactory.co.uk With 25 years' experience to her credit, Alison makes hats for all seasons; jumper hats from old knitwear, rainhats from raincoats, all one-off creations that include bespoke couture for weddings and other on-show occasions.

Couture is queen around the corner and up the steps to Caroline Smith's Sewing Sanctuary, www.sewladiddavintage.com. After years of hard work, Caroline has this year become Lyme's big 'overnight' success story. The gifted designer specialises in workshops, classes and creating her own line of vintage-inspired classic dress patterns. She exhibited these recently at the V&A and Chelsea Town Hall and everything went boom in a very good way for Caroline; fashionistas from London, the USA and Japan are now clamouring for her designs. TV programmes, including Kirstie Allsopp's, want to feature her stunningly feminine dresses, Liberty's is keenly interested in the Sew La-Di-La label and the word to the wise is to grab a class, a pattern or whatever you can from Caroline because she is going to be a star whose name you'll want in your wardrobe.

Just as delightful are the clay creations of The Town Mill Pottery where Berey Pealing and Don Hudson work at an art that is older than the Mill itself. Berey works in stoneware, Don in earthenware and both masters can be watched at work in what was the Mill's old stables; Don decorating his mugs and pots with coloured strips before glazing and Berey colouring by dipping into glazes so that the hues overlap and bleed into each other, producing a blue, aquamarine and sandy yellow landscape – perfect to take home as a memento of your visit to the Old Lyme which many forget, but which you'll bless yourself that you discovered.

www.townmill.org.uk

**PLEASE TURN OVER
TO READ MORE ABOUT
THE TOWN MILL'S OWN
CHEESEMONGER
— AND —
BREWERY —→**

PHOTO BY ADAM NEALE

Cheese & Beer at the Town Mill

THE Monger, or The Town Mill Cheesemonger as owner Justin Tunstall prefers to correctly call his tiny shop has become the most-awarded of all of Lyme's food outlets, www.townmillcheese.co.uk.

If Justin was to display all the awards that his rare cheeses have won in the five years since the former media executive became a Dorset treasure, there would be no room for the select stock.

Recently voted Cheesemonger of the Year at the National Farm Shop and Deli Awards, he has also won prizes and praise from The Times, The Guardian, The Sunday Telegraph, The Observer, The Independent, Taste Of The West, South West Flavour, Taste Of Dorset and his cheese is shipped around the world from the USA to Singapore. The Town Mill Cheesemonger has featured on ITV's Hungry Sailors, Radio 4's Test Match Special, Radio 2, Radio 6 and Radios Devon and Dorset.

Also voted The Best Shop In Dorset it is a draw for shoppers including David Miliband, Great Gatsby star Carey Mulligan, BBC DJs Radcliffe and Maconie and Channel 4 News presenter Krishnan Guru-Murthy.

Anyway, do you fancy a nammett on the beach?

Nammett is what old Dorset used to call a picnic of cheese and beer and in recent years this outdoor dining has been experiencing a revival due to the proximity of The Town Mill Cheesemonger to The Town Mill Brewery, www.TownMillBrewery.com.

The brewery makes five excellent beers with two more specials added for the season. There is beer is for every taste – Lyme Gold (4.2%), a pale summer ale for easy drinking, the traditional bitters Cobb (3.9%) and Town Mill Best (4.5%), the stonkingly-great Black Ven dark porter (5.0%) and the dream-making Revenge IPA (5.3%).

And for this season, the Town Mill Brewery is adding St. George's Ale (to celebrate Lyme's twinning with St George's, Bermuda) and, surely to the delight of all of our friends from the Midlands, Miller's Mild, 3.6% and said to be darkly delicious.

It's an open-faced brewery where you can see and learn all about the beer being made. You can enjoy a couple of pints at tables in the sunny courtyard outside, buy it in barrels and bottles and, if you do fancy a nammett on the beach, take it away in easily-drained two and four-pint containers.






- LYME REGIS -


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The ever popular beers: Cobb, Lyme Gold, Town Mill Best, Black Ven and Revenge are available in pubs, shops and restaurants across the South West. Our special St. George's Ale celebrates Lyme Regis' ancient links with the Town of St. George in Bermuda.

Come in, watch us brew, taste our beers and have a pint or two down at the Town Mill Brewery Tap.

For more information please visit www.townmillbrewery.com
01297 444354 sales@townmillbrewery.com

RICHARD AUSTIN'S PHOTO FILE



Win

A copy of Richard Austin's
'Lyme Regis in the Storms'

See Page 17

LYME Regis has discovered a new genre of visitors - storm tourists.

During every major gale thousands converge on the town to witness the dramatic seas crashing over the ancient Cobb harbour providing a welcome boost to our trading community at an otherwise quiet period.

No one captures these images better than award winning news photographer Richard Austin whose stunning shots of Lyme being savaged by the massive waves have appeared on the front pages of newspapers all over the world.

It's this publicity that brings the storm tourist flocking to Lyme.

When major weather conditions hit the south west, national newspaper and agency photographers are put on storm alert and invariably end up in Lyme where they know they will be able to capture the most dramatic shots.

Earlier this year Lyme experienced the most fierce seas for many years and, to give you an idea of what the Pearl of Dorset is like during the winter months, over the next eight pages we bring you a selection of Richard Austin's storm images.

The waves were so fierce that they caused tens of thousands of pounds in damage to the harbour, although the rest of the seafront escaped with very little damage.

Lyme has one of the safest beaches in the South West of England - but during the winter, it's a very different story with the harbour often being totally submerged by the dangerous seas.

Richard has published a book, Lyme Regis In The Storm, which is available from his shop, Richard Austin Images, in Coombe Street, price £25.

Eight pages of the best storm photos from 2014



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www.woodmeadhalls.co.uk



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Answer this simple question:

In what street in Lyme Regis is Richard's shop?

Answers to: Austin Book Competition,
Unit 3, St Michael's Business Centre,
Church Street, Lyme Regis, DT7 3DB

Closing date: June 27th 2014



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Eating Out

in Lyme Regis

Lyme is lucky to have restaurants and cafés to please most pockets and preferences, and in coming editions of The Lyme Regis Experience we hope to spotlight many of them. A lot are already well-known or clearly established but some are new or hidden-away secrets that only locals know. So we've selected five of these more unbelld; between them they span all tastes.

Ocean View

THE owner of Lyme's newest restaurant, Ocean View, has been looking for such premises for 30 years.

Lyme-born Stephen Thirlwell has long held a dream to run a restaurant where not only is the food top notch but where the scenery is your starter.

'Most of the people who visit Lyme come because of the beauty of the scenery, there isn't a seascape quite like our town's anywhere and I wanted a restaurant where diners could bask in the full panorama of that beauty – and I've found the best place,' says Steve.

Indeed he has, for there could be no more prime location from where to enjoy the stunning view of Lyme Bay than Ocean View at The Bay Hotel.

'It must be one of the most romantic sights in England and we've chosen a menu to compliment it,' says Steve.

Locally-caught fresh fish is, as you'd expect, a major feature of the menu at Ocean View – from lemon sole, to pan-fried scallops in sautéed fennel, to Dorset crab sandwiches, to salmon terrine, to Cornish mussels, to tiger prawn Caesar salad, to grilled smoked haddock with pancetta and chive mash with wholegrain mustard sauce – and more.

Vegetarians are catered for with specials like goat cheese with red onion jam tart and spaghetti with garlicky kale and roasted tomatoes, and the meat-lovers will be happy with a wide selection from 8oz rib-eye steaks, local lamb cutlets and the home-made meatballs.

'We took inspiration for the menu from what is around us, the freshest seafood, meat from local farmers,' says Steve.

'The restaurant is exactly as I dreamed; relaxed and friendly with a warm atmosphere and, of course, that view. Dining here on a summer evening as the sun sets and turns the whole bay golden will be like eating at the centre of heaven.'



Ocean View

The Bay Hotel, Marine Parade, DT7 3JQ
01297 442059 www.oceanviewlymeregis.co.uk

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ocean view
RESTAURANT

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Lunch 12-3pm

Evening Meals 6-9.30pm

Ocean View Restaurant, Marine Parade, Lyme Regis DT7 3JQ • 01297 442059





The Mill Café & Supper Club

'IT IS a gem,' wrote one food critic. 'By day the Café is just that, amazing coffee, wonderful homemade cakes and light lunches. Come the evening, the place takes on a different persona of a traditional country kitchen where family and friends gather to enjoy fresh Italian food served without fuss or ceremony. It has a wonderfully relaxed, tranquil and unhurried atmosphere with tables lit by candlelight, a super little place, home-made traditional Italian food at its best.'

It is a very cool place and anyone who has been to native Italy will recognise the authentic dolce vita and passion for the simple, fresh and delicious that comes of having Italian food writer Stefano Arthuri as the king of his kitchen.

When he started the Mill Café & Supper Club he made the decision not to buy in anything that I could make myself – cakes, scones, jam, chutney and the bread.'

The bread has become the signature dish of the café, and it's become almost a rite when he carries it from the oven into the café to cool.

Luncheons are luscious but something even more special happens at supper. There's a limited choice menu which changes with the seasons but which recently included: *Primi* – Lyme Bay crab salad with cornichons, capers and dill or pumpkin risotto with spices and sage. *Secondi* – roasted butterflied sardines with a pecorino, cheese, herb and breadcrumb crust or Hunter's stew of free-range chicken, white wine, tomatoes, garlic and herbs or baked leeks with cheese, marjoram and rosemary, plus organic salad. And for dessert, lemon cream with amaretti biscuit or chocolate and hazelnut fudge cake or local cheeses.

It's all very much like eating with an Italian family – sitting snugly inside or out in the enchanting walled herb garden, the conversations and laughter spill over from table to table and your table is yours for the night.



No wonder then that The Mill Café impressed that grande dame of Italian cookery, the food writer Anna Del Conte, when she came to dine.

'Stefano cooks like I do,' said Del Conte, the highest praise from one of the most-respected voices on traditional Italian cooking.

The Mill Café & Supper Club deserves that and all other praise, Lyme is lucky to have it.



The Mill Café & Supper Club
at The Town Mill, DT7 3PU
01297 445757 www.millcafeandsupperclub.co.uk

The Mill Café and Supper Club
It's the place everyone's talking about

'Delicious food with the best quality ingredients'
'Traditional Italian food at its best'
'Very friendly and a great atmosphere'
'Fantastic food and really good value'

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Town Mill, Mill Lane, Lyme Regis DT7 3PU

The LBK Gourmet Burger Bar

A FLICK through the reviews on Trip Advisor and Facebook of this Coombe Street restaurant indicates that LBK is set to be a bonanza bar for both the youth and family markets.

'The best burger I've ever had,' writes one young reviewer. 'The best burgers ever,' writes another. 'Five stars, I recommend this to everyone, I will be going again and again,' writes a third.

Another reviewer summed up the feelings of a lot of young locals and visitors when he wrote, 'After praying for years for a decent take-away in Lyme, LBK fits the bill brilliantly. The chilli cheese burger I've just devoured was easily the best burger I've ever had. Bravo!'

'We've taken great care to source our meat from top local farms,' says director Rob Rees, who runs the business with his family. 'We only use steak and best brisket and all of the meat is minced on the premises.

'What is particularly pleasing to me is that those who have eaten here already are coming back again and again, three or four times a week.'

A glance at the menu www.lbk-gourmetburgerbar.co.uk/menu tells why. From the Classic (a 6oz beef patty with or without cheese, ketchup, mustard, pickle, chopped onion and fries for £5.95), to the Texan BBQ, the Blue Cheese and Apple, the BLT, the Caribbean Reggae, the Chilli Cheese and the Au Poivre, it's gourmet all the way.

With a coffee bar, tea room, fully licensed bar and the new separate restaurant for those who prefer steaks or fish, and all set under ancient oak beams above a floor of 14th century flagstones in one of the oldest buildings in town, LBK looks soon to be standing for Lyme's Booming Kitchen.



The LBK Gourmet Burger Bar
Coombe Street, DT7 3PY
01297 445816 www.lbk-gourmetburgerbar.co.uk



LBK
Gourmet Burger Bar

All our beef burgers are made from whole cuts of West Country beef, ground, seasoned & formed by us on the premises daily

www.lbk-gourmetburgerbar.co.uk
44-45 COOMBE STREET, LYME REGIS DT7 3PY 01297 445816



The Millside

WHEN Tony Bennett croons 'Oh the good life...' he could be singing the theme tune for dining at The Millside, for sitting out in the sun at this riverside restaurant with a glass of chilled rosé and a bowl of olives as you wait for your Brixham calamari salad, it would be hard to think that life gets much better.

There's no bustle, no cars, no noise other than the brook babbling and the happy chatter of Lyme locals who know that The Millside is the place for exceptional food in peace – and besides the glorious setting, surrounded by the medieval walls of the Town Mill the owners, Richard and Jess Benson, set out to strive for the best.

'No food tastes better than when it is home made,' says Richard, 'So we make as much here ourselves as we can. Our bread, our pasta, the cakes and even the icecream we make by hand and that captures a taste that you can't beat.'

Lunch starters include mussels poached in wine, garlic and cream with that homemade bread to sop up the juices, or quails egg and beef Scotch egg with celeriac coleslaw. For mains, there's a wide choice too, including potato gnocchi with butternut squash, toasted pinenuts and truffle oil and grilled Lyme Bay cod fillet with hand-made chips, crushed peas and homemade tartar sauce.

And in the evening it gets better still – cracked Lyme Bay crab claws with garlic butter, Millside cured salmon, free-range pork and hazelnut terrine, or hake fillet with wild garlic mashed potato, surf clams and salsa verde, lamb chops with artichoke puree, pearl barley and purple sprouting broccoli, or roasted squash and artichoke risotto with pickled walnuts, watercress and mature cheddar toast.

And then there's the icecream, home made....

It's a good life indeed.



The Millside
The Town Mill, DT7 3PU
01297 445999 www.themillside.co.uk

Tierra Kitchen

HEAVEN is where we vegetarians of Lyme Regis thought we'd died and gone to when Tierra Kitchen opened last year and, what is more pleasing, omnivorous friends now think so too, writes Geoff Baker.

For 15 years I had the privilege of working for the world's leading vegetarians, the McCartney family. I've eaten top-grade veggie everywhere from a 30-course Zen Buddhist banquet in Tokyo, to select restaurants in Sydney and a place in Atlanta that does something divine with basil icecream. Hand on my heart (which has been meat-free for 35 years) I'd say Tierra Kitchen is one of top 10 vegetarian restaurants in the world.

It's that good and the reason why is the taste. Far too often many vegetarian restaurants, especially those of the wholefood brethren, put off legions of diners because when they leave out the flesh they leave out the taste too.

But Mark Evans' Tierra Kitchen sets the standard for the way that vegetarian cooking should be – more-ish because there is absolutely no compromise on flavour. No matter what your taste, the food here is delicious.

This has made Tierra Kitchen ranked No 1 on Trip Advisor of all of the 63 restaurants and eateries in Lyme Regis.

You can see why from the coffeetime choice – apple, orange and vanilla almond tart, vegan chocolate, plum and almond brownie, warm vanilla, cream cheese and raisin cake, chocolate, Guinness and cranberry cake.

And then there's the lunch and dinner treats, of which this is just a sample: Spinach, goat cheese and red onion filo with ginger-pickled pear, triple-cooked chips and organic leaves; Beet green lava bread rolled in nori and oats with roast baby beetroot and horse radish cream; Sweet potato and pistachio tortilla with char-grilled marinated fennel, pickled cauliflower, olive tapenade and pomegranate; Buckwheat cannelloni with wilted spinach; Wensleydale and cranberry filling, gratinated with mornay sauce and pickled pineapple.

Check the many 5-star reviews yourself on their website and Trip Advisor. 'I want to eat here every day' says one. If you like excellent food cooked in an imaginative way and served with unselfconscious style, then you'll love this place. If you happen to be vegetarian, you may never want to leave.



Tierra Kitchen
Coombe Street, DT7 3PY
01297 445189 www.tierrakitchen.co.uk



THE NAGS HEAD

www.nagsheadlymeregis.co.uk

LYME is blessed to have a generous measure of pubs, all of them worth a thorough visit. But if you want to drink where the locals go, there's nowhere more local than The Nag's Head at the top of Silver Street.

For the best part of a century The Nag's has been the local for generation after generation of Lyme families, because of the friendly welcome, the excellent and ever-changing range of ales, the spectacular choice of whiskies and the live music.

Since they took over The Nag's in 1996 landlords Robin and Debbie Hamon have made this happy, family-friendly inn the No.1 place in the town to enjoy a great band.

Although pub rock has died in many other towns in Britain, at The Nag's it is flourishing and throughout the summer there's a band on at least one night every week. Of particular note will be Delta Tango 7 on May 28th and ½ Jack on May 31st, a guaranteed great time with fine Lyme musicians.

The CAMRA-award winning old inn also has six bedrooms with magnificent views of Lyme and the Jurassic Coast, Sky Sports, regular darts league matches and slap-up barbecues which are locally the stuff of legend. Check their website for what's on, there's always something.



PHOTO BY GEOFF BAKER



The Nags Head
32 Silver St, Lyme Regis,
Dorset DT7 3HS
01297 442312

THE TALBOT ARMS

www.talbotarms.com

ANOTHER of Lyme's top B&B pubs isn't quite in the town: The Talbot Arms in Uplyme is on the edge of Lyme, in Devon. Despite being 'over the border', The Talbot has also been a Lyme locals' local for more than 60 years. And since Steve and Wendy Gardner introduced their acclaimed range of hearty home-cooked meals and five hotel-standard rooms, the traditional inn has become a visitors' favourite too.

There are many good reasons for The Talbot's popularity; one being the four Otter Ales on tap which, along with beers from Sharps, Yeovil Ales, the Butcombe Brewery and Bath Ales' Golden Hare, have made the Talbot another CAMRA-recommended choice. And every year a feast of beers comes to The Talbot for the pub's much-celebrated and massively-enjoyable beer festival, when 40 beers become available. This year The Talbot's October Fest weekend will be on October 24th-26th.

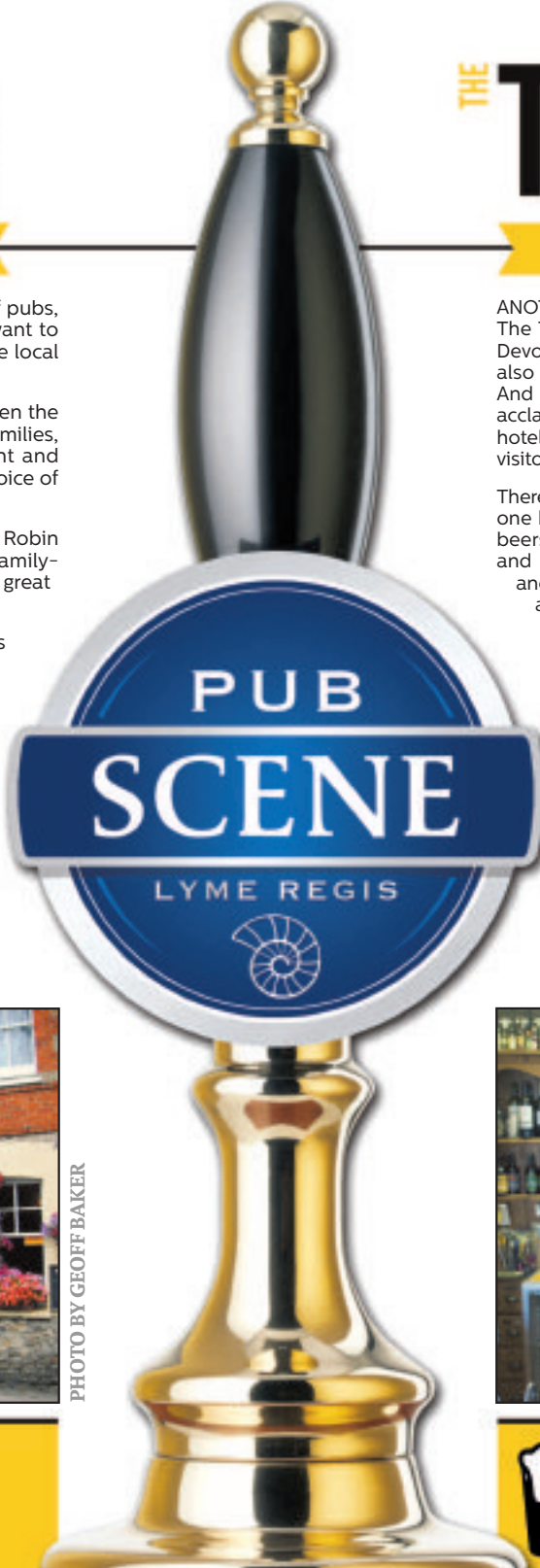
It's The Talbot's famously warm hospitality and hearty home-cooked meals which has won it a wide reputation. The breakfasts are regularly championed on Trip Advisor, as is the wide range of locally-sourced meals. Visitors and locals are welcome at the popular Over-60s lunches every Thursday – but it's Steve and Wendy's Sunday Carvery that really pulls in the crowds, as in-the-know locals flock to the pub week after week for huge portions of quality food at sensible prices. Always book to get a table.



PHOTO BY ROB COOMBE



The Talbot Arms
Uplyme
Devon DT7 3TF
01297 443136



The Nags Head

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www.nagsheadlymeregis.co.uk



THE TALBOT ARMS



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Lyme's Hidden Treasure

MORE than 50 artists make their living from their creativity in Lyme. If you add to that the number of local craftists, they are more plentiful than pasties. Some do it because they've retired here to achieve their dream of expressing themselves in ways that they couldn't in their office job, others take advantage of the 1,001 ways with driftwood and beach glass.

And some do it because otherwise they would explode with suppressed creativity and passion.

Tucked away in Church Street, just beside the traffic lights, is the home, shop and studio of one of the latter - Lyme's most hidden art treasure, Linzi West.

'Walking into Linzi's shop,' says another local artist, the illustrator and cartoonist Ian Dicks, 'is the closest you'll get to walking into an artist's head.'

You'll see what he means from the moment you step into her Mermaid Shop, her art is everywhere; her oil paintings and portraits, her six illustrated books for children, painted furniture, poetry painted onto French linen, painted clothes, ceramics - head vases, bowls, plates and tiles - even hand-painted theatre facades for the tank of your pet fish.

'I've painted a scene from Shakespeare's The Tempest for the back of the tank,' said Linzi, somewhat typically indicating the breadth of her imagination. 'I thought it would be nice for fish to be swimming in their own play.'

As in many arty seaside towns, some of what is for sale in Lyme is samey; lovely, no doubt, and all created with care, but sometimes not a million ways different from what you have seen elsewhere. This cannot be said of the art of Linzi West; everything is unique, original one-offs that make those non-artists of us wonder. 'How on earth did you think of that?'

Take, for instance, her sea shell mermaid postcards; Wish you were here has never been said like this before - a real scallop shell painted with a seascape on one side and on the other she paints on the name, message and address of your loved one.

'It's an alternative postcard; you just put a stamp on it and pop it in the post box,' she said.

And it gets there?

'Yes, they've arrived on doorsteps all over the world. I just thought it was a bit more personal than sending an email on your iPhone.'

Continued on page 28...



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David Manners Art

of Lyme Regis and Wilmington, North Carolina, USA

enquiries@davidmannersart.co.uk www.davidmannersart.co.uk

Lyme's

Hidden Treasure

continued....

For those who love the romance of all of this, Linzi will also do you a message in a bottle – your poem or message illustrated and placed inside an antique bottle and sent parcel post in a box with a little sand and smelling of the sea.

Very popular are Linzi's People Pots – a friend of William and Kate bought a pair of these as a wedding gift for the royal couple.

'People Pots sell really well. I paint a face on the outside of old flower pots. They have to be old pots, I only use Victorian ones, because they are handmade and they have a lovely surface, a nice texture to paint on. Judi Dench has one of my People Pots but lots of people collect them and display them in a row. I don't know what the face is going to be until I pick up the pot, maybe a young sailor or a characterful gardener.'

During the summer holidays a stream of parents bring their children to The Mermaid Shop to sit for a portrait in oils that is so much more charming than a Nikon snap. One hour and £45 later, hundreds of families have gone home happy with a 6x6 inch small heirloom which will bring back memories for a lifetime.

'With the boom in photography of recent years portraits haven't been that popular for a while, but they are coming back into fashion now; children are so animated and you can capture that, their characteristics, in a painting.'

Linzi was pretty much born into art. Her father was a heraldry artist and carriage restorer to the Queen.

'He encouraged my artwork through childhood and I learnt lots of skills from him, such as gilding, lettering and marbling.'

Her first job after leaving Richmond College, where she studied illustration, was at an advertising agency in London's funky South Molton Street. During that time she enjoyed travelling to her father's workplace at Buckingham Palace Mews, where she would feed the Queen's horses sugar lumps before starting work at her own studio.

Linzi enjoyed working as a successful freelance artist and illustrator for many years afterwards but, since moving to Lyme 17 years ago, it has been in her Mermaid Shop where she has found even more creativity and flow of ideas.

Linzi's shop and studio is on the ground floor of the former Tudor House Hotel, a 600-year-old building that is one of the oldest in the town, oak-beams everywhere and very much resembling the inside of an Elizabethan galleon. The house even has its own ghost, of a silver lady.

'I've always likened the house to an old ship, which inspires me to create these little treasures everywhere. The mermaid idea came because this is an old house with a well that is filled by the sea, and they tell on the Lyme ghost tours that when the tide comes in on stormy nights there's a mermaid who shelters there. I've not seen her yet, but I'd like to paint her one day.'

'Life drawing and painting portraits and figures are my main passions. The nude figure is one of the challenging and interesting subjects things to draw; I have a huge collection of large drawings now and it's invaluable to have this drawing ability to use when I'm developing illustrations from my imagination.'

'And I love to draw expressive faces. I really wanted to do the Big Issue lady the other day. I asked her if I bought 20 Big Issues could I draw her in my studio but I don't think she understood me.'

'But I like to paint on all surfaces and use all mediums. When my son Joseph was little and was afraid of the dark, I painted a huge tiger on the wall lying next to him in his bed, as his protector. I think lots of little children would like their favourite animal painted next to their bed.'

Encouraging children through art is especially important to Linzi, hence her five published books for six to eight-year-olds and a sixth now in production. To further their wonder, she has recently started art classes for primary children.

'Schools don't give so much time to painting these days, not as much as they used to, and that's a pity because all children have wonderful imaginations. I find it very inspirational and rewarding to work with children.'

Although her art is highly accomplished, there is a child-like innocence to much of it that gives it a highly sought-after quality. But many visitors to Linzi's shop and studio are astonished that the prices for her completely unique work are not higher.

'I'm afraid that I am not very commercial. I love what I do and couldn't do anything else, and I know that what I'm doing is worthwhile, but although many people have said I should be selling in London or New York, and that a Mermaid Shop would be popular there, I just sell everything I paint and make here in Lyme. I'm off the beaten track but hopefully not too hard to find.'

Those in the know though say that, once discovered, the gloriously original creations of Linzi West will be treasured for life. For an online preview of Linzi's art, go to www.mermaid-at-the-tudor.com – but it is more rewarding to find the shop yourself.



Lyme's most famous Artist

LIKE the hunt to find Linzi West, a search for Lyme's most famous artist, the much-celebrated Hugh Dunford Wood, is worth the extra effort.

Hugh, too, is a town treasure, although there is nothing hidden in himself about this art superstar. If you cannot easily find The Little Place, his Silver Street studio and home of the National Gallery Of Lyme Regis, follow the chap in the bright red, orange or green Fedora seen most days in Broad Street in a matching suit.

Hugh doesn't as much wear his art on his sleeve as his entire palette. A relative once said of him that his non-artistic parents planted an onion and up came a daffodil; a more accurate description would be up came Wordsworth's entire field.

But then Lyme's sartorial traffic light has every justification to be flamboyant; as one of Britain's leading contemporary artists his catalogue of achievements is extraordinary. As an admirer said, 'the way Hugh converts realities into so many different works of art makes him some sort of Tate modem'.

As a portrait painter his famous sitters have included poets Seamus Heaney, John Betjeman and Andrew Motion, director David Lean and actor Mark Rylance. For more than two decades he employed 25 artists at his hand painted textile business, selling ties and waistcoats in Harrods, Paul Smith, Neiman Marcus, Saks, Bergdorfs and Yoshi Yamamoto.

His work has been exhibited at the Royal Shakespeare Company, the V&A, the Royal Academy and the Chelsea Arts Club. His handmade wallpaper decorates palaces, opera houses and National Trust stately homes and his animal designs for his Peaceful Kingdom Cushions plump up sofas in Japan, Israel, Australia, the USA and across Europe.

Indeed so prestigiously prolific is Hugh that it is something of an amazement that he also has time to run The Lyme Lympics, an Olympics spoof featuring beach events like the eight-legged race and partner-jousting that has become one of the knockabout highlights of the town's summers.

'I would be tired doing nothing,' says the eclectic artist who also fits in teaching asylum seekers, refugees and convicts and who lists among his regrets as missing painting Ronnie Biggs in Belmarsh Prison because the late train robber had bronchitis.

Unusually for such a celebrity he is charmingly approachable, as engaging and fizzing as David Attenborough on three pints of Red Bull, and it is this chatty cheerfulness which has for six years drawn visitors eagerly to the National Gallery of Lyme Regis which he establishes in his house and magical garden 50 yards up the hill from the town library.

'The idea is to bring work of artists from outside the area to exhibit here and bring fresh air to Lyme's art scene,' says Hugh. 'It's a pop-up gallery and this year we will feature the exquisite seascapes and landscapes of the painter Frances Hatch, kiln-cast glass by Karen Browning and Karina Gill's latest collection of silver-etched bowls and extraordinary jewellery.'

There will also be West Country pottery and sculpture, Hugh's wallpaper, cushions and paintings and his Collino prints – unique prints of lino cuts which wittily depict a memory or imagination from his extraordinary head that work, he says, 'like poems with illustrations'.

And, whilst appreciating the works of art at the most scenic gallery east of St. Ives, there's also tea and cake, effervescently served by Lyme's biggest splash of colour.

The National Gallery of Lyme Regis runs May 24th to June 8th.
For more information: www.dunfordwood.co.uk

For information and profiles on the creations
of Lyme's many other artists, go to
www.lymeregisartfest.com



The *fairway* to heaven where dining's to the *fore*

EVERY golfer who visits Lyme should play at least one round at the town's golf club, for they will never forget the magnificent beauty of its scenery.

If Lyme Regis is the pearl of Dorset, Lyme Regis Golf Club is the place from where best to admire the quality of its precious lustre, you will not find better views on any course in the Westcountry – and now visitors to the club, including Lyme locals, can dine at the new restaurant there as well.

The official listings guide to every golf course in England, www.englishgolfcourses.co.uk, says this about the Lyme course: 'What a simply superb place for a quiet round of golf, the scenery is utterly spectacular and you won't want to take your eyes off it.'

However, it is advised that you do, if only to address the ball, for behind the beauty of its stunning setting the Lyme course will test the mettle of the best. As the listing guide notes, 'You will find yourself up against some of the most intimidating and challenging holes in the South West.'

The course is 6,264 yards, a par 71. The greens are excellent; subtle and requiring a keen reading and, thanks to an expert team of greenkeepers, they are always kept that way.

The golf club was founded in 1893, originally a 9-hole course, with 67 members and a day green fee of one shilling [5p]. These days the price of a single round has risen a tad, to £40 for visitors.

There are few experiences more satisfying to the soul than walking up the 18th in that light, an easy 180 yard drive to the centre of the fairway, leaving yourself just a short iron to the green as the sky turns red behind you.



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www.lymeregisgolfclub.co.uk secretary@lymeregisgolfclub.co.uk



Telephone 01297 442963

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Besides being the home of glorious golf, the club has long been known to members as a place to dine well, but few non-members or visitors are aware that they can dine here too.



But for £50 the keen can buy a day ticket allowing unlimited play; 18 holes in the morning, a lunch that is always excellent in the luxurious clubhouse, and, given the popularity of the Sharp's Doombar among the good stock of real ales at the bar, a possibly less-steady 18 in the afternoon.

Although many visitors, especially on a warm summer evening, prefer the Twilight ticket, a special rate of £20 for those teeing off after 4.00 pm. This is possibly the loveliest time to play a round at Lyme, as the sun begins its descent over Star Point and the cliffs, Golden Cap and the whole of Lyme Bay are washed in a balmy glow that turns the course chartreuse.

There are few experiences more satisfying to the soul than walking up the 18th in that light, an easy 180 yard drive to the centre of the fairway, leaving yourself just a short iron to the green as the sky turns red behind you.

Visitors can usually play after 9.30 am, less there is a special event taking place. But there are restrictions to be aware of – Thursday is Ladies' day, when the course is closed until 1.00pm or 3.00 pm, depending on the season. Sunday is Men's competition day and the course is normally closed until 12.00 Noon. To be sure of a round, it is advisable to consult the club.

website www.lymeregisgolfclub.co.uk or email the Secretary at admin@lymeregisgolfclub.co.uk

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Summer Events in Lyme

It's all go in the town that never does nothing



THE Lyme Regis Jazz & Blues Festival kicks off its weekend on Friday May 30th from 8.00pm-1.00am at The Marine Theatre with DJs Pete Isaac and Griff spinning jelly jazz bop from soul to drum and bass – plus a live show from eight-piece brass funk band Freshly Squeezed. A must for dancers. £10.

Saturday May 31st

11.00am – Lyme's answer to the New Orleans prance, the Umbrella Parade down Broad Street and led by Gerry Brown & The Mission Hall Band. A prize for the best-decorated broly.

12.30pm – The Jubilee Pavilion on the Sea Front. Lunchtime jazz with the Arcadia Jazzband. Free.

2.30pm – The Marine Theatre. The always-popular Gerry Brown & The Mission Hall Jazz Band in concert. £8.

7.45pm – The Marine Theatre. More bopping as the Pedigree Jazz Band takes you back to the jazz of the 1930s and 40s. Plus dance lessons for those rusty on their moves. Prizes for the best vintage outfits. Organisers promise 'a night of uninhibited fun'. Ooo-err. £12.

Sunday June 1st

10.30am-1.30pm. The Marine Theatre. This is a good idea, Jazz Brunch. Recover from the night of inhibition with brunch supplied by Lyme's acclaimed Aroma Café as Philip Clouts on piano and Heather Wensley on sultry blues vocals slow the pace to a balmy lazy Sunday. £10.

7.45pm – The Marine Theatre. Geno Washington & The Yo Yos. Geno has played twice in Lyme Regis; once in the Sixties when the theatre's 350 capacity was somewhat exceeded when a fire limit-busting extra 400 squeezed in, and once again last year when he headlined the Jazz & Blues Festival. Anyone who was there will tell you that the legendary soul showman had lost nothing between visits and last year's show is generally reckoned to be one of the greatest gigs in living memory. Everybody danced, everybody sang and thanks to the intervention of organiser Julie Sheppard, Geno is back for his encore. It will be fantastic. £15 standing and £18 seated.

All tickets from The Tourist Information Centre next to the theatre 01297 442138. www.lymeregisjazzfestival.co.uk

There's always something going on in Lyme and this year is no exception as the town that never does nothing continues to build its reputation as the place to be for a show.

For this, the early part of the season (May and June), a miscellany of festivals, feasts and events are planned to entertain, educate and delight all ages, tastes and curiosities.

may

1st – The Regent Cinema. 6.45pm. King Lear Live from The National Theatre.



2nd-4th – The Huge Tent on The Marine Parade. All day. The Lyme Regis Fossil Festival. Brilliantly-organised by director Kimberly Clarke, the fossil festival never fails to be a top-notch event of wonder, education and enthrallment as expert paleontologists gather to display fascinating finds and reveal mind-boggling facts in the world's No.1 fossil town. www.fossilfestival.com

3rd-5th – The Masonic Hall, Broad Street. 10.00am-5.00pm. David Manners' Exhibition of new paintings. A major exhibition from Lyme's most meteorically-successful artist. Two years ago the former Lyme teacher was forced to retire because of post traumatic stress endured during horrific experiences serving as helicopter aircrew in the 1993 Bosnian War. He took up painting as a therapy and became an overnight sensation. He now has galleries in North Carolina and Mexico and his keenly-collected work is bought by art-lovers and investors in the USA, South America, South Africa and the Middle East. www.davidmannersart.co.uk



Summer Events in Lyme


It's all go in the town that never does nothing

4th – Anning Road. 2.00pm. The May Day Fete. Featuring stalls of all sorts of what-not and displays by the young people of the town. www.lymeregiscarnival.co.uk


5th – The Huge Tent on The Marine Parade. All day. Free. The Lyme Regis Food Festival. Bring a big bag but don't eat for a week beforehand as the food festival presents a feast of food and drink produced in Dorset, Devon and Somerset. With demonstrations from star chefs, eat in or takeaway a wide choice of local produce.

5th – Woodmead Road Bridge and all along the River Lym. 12.00 Noon. The May Day Duck Race. In aid of the town's Christmas lights. www.lymeregiscarnival.co.uk

10th-11th – The Town Mill. All day. Mill Fest. To celebrate National Mills Weekend the Town Mill in the town's Artisan Quarter will be open to the public to see the workings of the 700-year-old watermill, one of many that used to operate in the town. Children's storytellers will be telling charming and spooky tales for younger visitors plus a Mill Art exhibition open for paintings and photographs from all. www.townmill.org.uk

 **13th-17th** – The Marine Theatre. 7.15pm Tues-Sat plus 2.30pm Sat matinee. £5-£12 Mame, the smash-hit Broadway musical comedy of 1920s party life presented by The Lyme Regis Operatic Society. Starring Nicky Sweetland as Auntie Mame. www.marinetheatre.com

14th – The Regent Cinema. 6.45pm. Henry IV Part One. Screened live from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

 **16th** – The Regent Cinema. 11.45am. King Lear. Screened live from The National Theatre.

16th-18th – The Town Museum. All day. Free. Happy Birthday Mary Anning. A weekend of talks, walks and celebrations as all of the town's fossil scientists and experts gather to mark the life and explain the importance of the world's greatest fossil-hunter and Lyme's most-famous figure. www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk

17th – The Marine Theatre. 7.45 pm. £10-£12. Police Dog Hogan. A great band night from the high-energy, seven-piece combo of fiddle, banjo, mandolin, drums and guitars blending country, folk, pop and rocking bluegrass. www.marinetheatre.com

23rd-June 1st – The Town Mill Malthouse. All day. Free. Lyme Regis Art Society annual exhibition. Revealing the paintings and prodigious creations of the lesser-known but nonetheless charming talents of the town.

25th – The North Wall. 3.00-6.00 pm. Free. Junior Fishing Competition. Heaviest bag competition, bait and tackle supplied. Under 16s only. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. www.lymefishing.org.uk

25th – The Cobb Slipway. 3.00pm. The Blessing Of The Boats. The RNLI and fishing community's annual service beside the Lifeboat Station to bless the boats and remember those lost at sea. Wreaths will be blessed and taken out into the Bay by the town's volunteer lifeboat team. The service will be accompanied by the Lyme Regis Town Band.

june

6th – Church Cliffs. 6.00am. D-Day Outdoor Service. To launch a weekend of commemoration and celebration the Rev Jane Skinner will take a service of thanksgiving and remembrance on the cliffs at the back of St Michael's Church, where 70 years ago onlookers watched the D-Day Allied invasion force sail to Normandy to begin the liberation of Europe. Also, check out The Town Mill during the D-Day weekend where artisans will be dressing up in 40s gear, The Town Mill Cheesemonger will be selling commemorative cheese in wartime rations and ale as real as the GIs enjoyed it from The Town Mill Brewery. www.townmill.org.uk www.townmillcheese.co.uk www.townmillbrewery.co.uk

6th – The Marine Theatre. 2.30 pm. £5. The D-Day Variety Show. Re-live or discover the songs and themes of 1940s Britain as the Lyme Regis Dramatic Society, the Woodroffe School Jazz Band, the Lyme Regis Majorettes and other talents of the town perform a programme of wartime music, skits and sketches. www.marinetheatre.com

 **7th** – The Woodmead Halls. 7.00pm. £8. The D-Day Swing Band Dance with The Three Counties Swing Band and The Land Girls singing duo. Dress up in Forties frocks, get on your Zoot suit and dance the night away at a 1940s night that is tipped to be Lyme's sell-out sensation of the season. Drake's Way hairdresser Polly Coates will be doing Forties hairstyles at her salon, Along Came Polly, for ladies who want to look just the part. www.woodmeadhalls.co.uk www.alongcamepollyhair.com

LYME REGIS REGATTA AND CARNIVAL WEEK 2014



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Saturday 9th August

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Summer Events in Lyme

It's all go in the town that never does nothing



7th – The Marine Theatre.

7.00pm. £25. The Mark Hix Crab Feast Fest. To launch the Lyme Regis Crab Festival [7th–15th] famed chef Hix will cook a crab feast the likes of which you've probably never had. Last year's event was an immediate sell-out so best to book as soon as you read this. Check at the Tourist Information Centre for all sorts of other crab-related events, including cooking demonstrations on the seafront and all sorts of fun at The Wet Fish Shop, Lyme's all-local fishmonger at The Cobb and home to jovial crab expert Simon Bennett, who sells fresh daily the much-sought-after crab from nearby Beer. At 2.00pm on Saturday 7th finalists in the Create A Crab Recipe competition will hold a cook-off at the Marine Parade Shelters. Judges Hix and Bennett will cast their votes according to taste, presentation and creativity. The winner gets to have his/her dish on the menu at Hix's Cobb Road restaurant plus a free dinner there too. www.hixoysterandfishhouse.com/whatson www.marinetheatre.com www.wetfishshop.com www.lymeregis.org/touristinformation

8th – Gun Cliff. 2.00pm. The D-Day Commemoration Parade. Led by the Mayor, the Royal British Legion and local cadet forces and accompanied by the Lyme Regis Town Band, a parade will march from Gun Cliff to the Jubilee Pavilion Shelters on the seafront to mark the 70th anniversary of D-Day and, at a short service of remembrance following the parade.

11th – The Town Mill. All day. All sorts of cheesy fun going on as master monger Justin Tunstall celebrates the fifth anniversary of the shop that has won more awards than

any other cheesemonger in Britain. www.townmillcheese.co.uk

12th – The Guildhall. 2.00pm. £2–£3. Jane Did It First. A talk by Diana Shervington, the Jane Austen expert and her direct descendant, on Austen's last and unfinished novel, Sanditon. Sponsored by the Lyme Regis Museum. www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk



12th – The Regent Cinema. 6.45pm. A Small Family Business. Live from The National Theatre.

16th – Marine Parade Shelters. 2.00pm. Siege Of Lyme Thanksgiving Day. Expect to see Roundheads as Lyme marks the 370th anniversary of the end of the siege of the town mounted by Royalist forces during the Civil War. www.lymeregiscarnival.co.uk

17th – The Regent Cinema. 6.45pm. Benvenuto Cellini Live from The National Opera.

17th – The Marine Parade Shelters. 8.00pm. Free. A Concert by the Lyme Regis Town Band. www.lymeregistownband.co.uk

18th – The Regent Cinema. 6.45pm. Henry IV Part Two, Live from The Royal Shakespeare Theatre.



20th – The Marine Theatre. 7.45pm. £17.50. Midge Ure. An excellent and unique unplugged experience with the master musician and chart-topper spanning his 30 year career with acoustic versions of songs from his time in Slik, Visage, Thin Lizzy, Ultravox and his solo period. www.marinetheatre.com

21st – Cobbgate Car Park. 11.30 pm. £3.50 a torch. Solstice Torchlight Parade. www.lymeregiscarnival.co.uk

21st – Live music from The Echoes at The Royal Standard. From 9pm.



22nd – The Seafront. 9.50am.

Westland Coast To Coast. Hundreds of motorcyclists riding machines manufactured up to 1972 will gather on the Cart Road for the start of the famous ride in aid of Headway, the Somerset charity that helps those who have suffered head injuries. www.wcmcc.org.uk

24th – The Marine Parade Shelters. 8.00pm. Free. Sunset concert by the Lyme Regis Town Band. www.lymeregistownband.co.uk

28th – The Marine Parade. Armed Forces Day parade. Lyme joins the nationwide celebration of the UK Armed Forces, decking out the town red, white and blue with a march by the Royal British Legion, local cadet forces, the Mayor and the Lyme Regis Town Band. www.armedforcesday.org.uk

Please contact us with your July & August events to feature in our next issue.
E-mail Geoff Baker at geoffbaker12@btinternet.com





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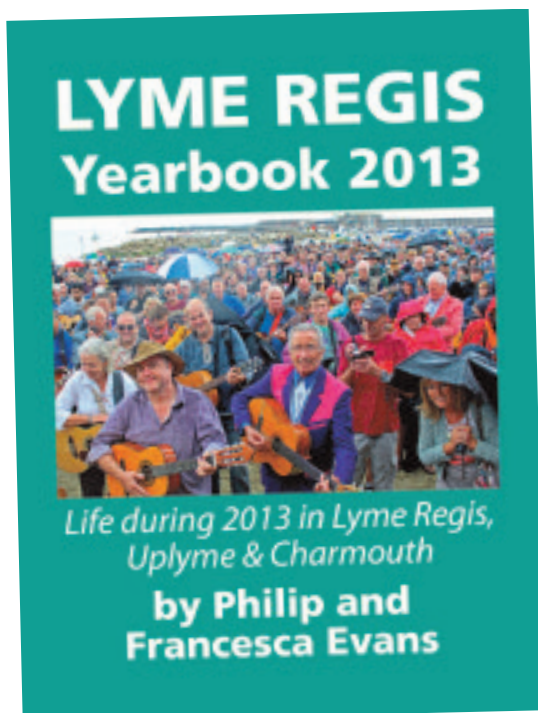
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